

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 FEAE-00 NIC-01 IO-10 AF-04 AID-05 EB-04

CIEP-01 TRSE-00 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CU-02

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P R 071056Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1634

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA SAUDI ARABIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IRAN

AMEMBASSH ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0922

KUWAIT PASS MUSCAT, DOHA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : PFOR, BA

SUBJECT : GOB FOREIGN MINISTER ON GULF SUMMIT

1. NOVEMBER 6 GOB FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD ME PLANS APPEAR TO BE MOVING AHEAD FOR MEETING OF AT LEAST SOME GULF AMIRS WITH KING FAISAL IN EASTERN PROVINCE TOWARD END OF NOVEMBER. FOREIGN MINISTER FELT MEETING WOULD HAVE PRETTY UNSTRUCTURED AGENDA AND IT SHOULD CERTAINLY NOT BE CATEGORIZED AS "SUMMIT". HE NOTED THE TIME IS HARDLY RIPE FOR GULF SUMMIT, PARTICULARLY WHEN IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY AWKWARD TO HOLD ONE WITHOUT INCLUDING IRAQ WHICH IS AFTER ALL A "GULF STATE".

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A) FOREIGN MINISTER SAID GOB SINCERE IN ITS ENTHUSIASM

FOR CLOSER COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES AS EVIDENCED BY SUPPORT FOR "GULF SUMMIT" IN AMIRI SPEECH OPENING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. HE AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT AT THIS STAGE MOST GOB REALISTICALLY HOPES TO SEE RESULT IS MORE IMPETUS TOWARD COOPERATION IN ECONOMIC, CULTURAL AND EDUCATION AFFAIRS. (COMMENT: BAHRAIN IN PARTICULAR HAS MUCH TO GAIN FROM SUCH COOPERATION AS EVIDENCED IN TDPEC DECISION TO PLACE DRY DOCK HERE AND IN CONTINUING PATTERN OF SEEKING SUPPORT FROM RICHER GULF NEIGHBORS IN BAHRAINI DEVELOPMENT SCHEMES).

3. AS TO CLOSER POLITICAL COOPERATION TENDING TOWARD EVENTUAL FORMATION SOME SORT OF FEDERAL STRUCTURE, FOREIGN MINISTER OPINED THIS APPEARS STILL FAR OFF. HE FELT CONCEPT OF NINE-STATE GULF FEDERATION (BAHRAIN, QATAR, UAE) "NOT COMPLETELY DEAD" BUT THAT FIRST STAGE HAD TO BE GREATER PROGRESS IN CONSOLIDATING UAE. HE INDICATED GOB NOT UNIMPRESSED WITH WHAT ZAYID HAD BEEN ABLE TO ACHIEVE IN THIS REGARD TO DATE GIVEN THE REALITIES OF TRYING TO MAKE A WORKABLE MODERN FEDERATION OUT OF THE SEVEN TRUCIAL STATES. FOREIGN MINISTER AGREED THAT SETTLEMENT OF SAUDI/ ABU DHABI BORDER PROBLEM WAS A MOST SIGNIFICANT AND WELCOME STEP TOWARD ACHIEVING STRONGER POLITICAL COOPERATION AMONG GULF STATES. WITH SAUDI ARABIA NOW ON GOOD TERMS WITH ALL GULF AMIRATES, KING FAISAL'S LEADERSHIP POSITION PROVIDES "A TENT" UNDER WHICH LESS PRESTIGIOUS RULERS COULD MEET TO DISCUSS COOPERATION. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT TO DATE FAISAL APPEARED EITHER INSUFFICIENTLY INTERESTED OR TOO PREOCCUPIED ELSEWHERE TO PROVIDE THE SORT OF LEADERSHIP THAT ANY SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS TOWARD MEANINGFUL POLITICAL COOPERATION IN THE GULF WOULD REQUIRE.

4. GOB ROLLING OUT THE RED CARPET FOR SHAIKH ZAYID WHO IS ARRIVING NOVEMBER 7 FOR OVERNIGHT VISIT.

TWINAM

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Message Attributes

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